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ABSTRACT

Recognizing that for young children, play is a tool for learning, this book compiles contributions by different authors, reflecting both up-to-date research and current classroom practice as they relate to children's play. Part 1 of the book explores the value of play as a cross-cultural concept as well as one rooted in the Western world. Gender issues in play are also examined. Part 2 consists of arguments concerning play, its place in schooling, and the responsibilities of adults in enhancing learning through play. The provision of a subject curriculum through play, focusing on language, art, science, and math, is examined in part 3. The final section of the book offers views on evaluating and improving the quality of play, observing play, and the individual child and play. Following an introduction by Janet Moyles, the chapters are as follows: (1) "Play and the Uses of Play" (Peter Smith); (2) "Play in Different Cultures and Different Childhoods" (Audrey Curtis); (3) "Sex-Differentiated Play Experiences and Children's Choices" (Jane Hislam); (4) "Play, the Playground and the Culture of Childhood" (David Brown); (5) "Play and Legislated Curriculum. Back to Basics: An Alternative View" (Angela Anning); (6) "'Play is Ace!' Developing Play in Schools and Classrooms" (Lesley Abbott); (7) "'Please Miss Alexander: Will You Be the Robber?' Fantasy Play: A Case for Adult Intervention" (Neil Kitson); (8) "Making Play Work in the Classroom" (Peter Heaslip); (9) "Play, Literacy and the Role of the Teacher" (Nigel Hall); (10) "Experiential Learning in Play and Art" (Roy Prentice); (11) "Bulbs, Buzzers, and Batteries--Play and Science" (Jeni Riley and Jane Savage); (12) "Mathematics and Play" (Rose Griffiths); (13) "Evaluating and Improving the Quality of Play" (Christine Pascal and Tony Bertram); (14) "Observing Play in Early Childhood" (Victoria Hurst); and (15) "Play, the Universe and Everything!" on children's play processes (Tina Bruce). The need to agree to differ on constructs of play is emphasized in the afterward of the book. Contains a 250-item reference list. (BAC)